

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 11349 240039Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

/062 W

----- 013678

R 232345Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2045

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 11349

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT MX

SUBJECT: JLP ON SOCIAL JUSTICE: NOT MARX BUT JESUS

REF MEXICO A-448, DEC 3, 1975

1. SUMMARY: IN WHAT MAY IN RETROSPECT BECOME LANDMARK CAMPAIGN SPEECH, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO ADDRESSED AT LENGTH SUBJECT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE BEFORE GROUP OF PUEBLA BUSINESSMEN DEC. 20. JLP, AS ECHEVERRIA HAS DONE, CAME DOWN SQUARELY ON SIDE OF MEXICO'S "MARGINAL CLASSES", BUT DID SO IN TONE LESS PIOUS AND EXHORTATORY THAN ECHEVERRIA'S. JLP INVOKED CHRISTIAN GOLDEN RULE AS PRECEPT WHICH OUT TO GOVERN MEXICAN GOVT TREATMENT OF WORKERS AND CAMPESINOS, AND REFUTED IN ADVANCE CONCERNS THAT HE ADVOCATED MARXISM OR THAT INCREASED CORRUPTION WOULD BE RESULT. INITIAL REACTION IS MIXED, HIS OBVIOUS SINCERITY WINNING KUDOS, BUT HIS REFERENCE TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS DISCONCERTING TO OTHERS STILL MINDFUL OF HISTORIC INATTENTION TO SOCIAL ILLS BY MEXICAN CHURCH. END SUMMARY.

1. BEFORE GROUP OF PUEBLA INDUSTRIALISTS DEC. 20, PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO (JLP) SPOKE AT GREAT LENGTH THAN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON MEXICAN STATE-PRIMATE SECTOR RELATIONS. JLP'S EXTENSIVE AND APPARENTLY GENUINELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 11349 240039Z

EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS REPLIED TO THE BUSINESSMEN'S COMPLAINTS THAT

CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT HAD DETERIORATE AND THAT PRIVATE SECTOR HAD BEEN MADE SCAPEGOAT FOR SOCIAL ILLS FOR WHICH NO ONE SECTOR COULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE. OBVIOUSLY SMARTING FROM CRITICISM THAT HE HAD BEEN DODGING REAL ISSUES, JLP USED OCCASION TO EXPLAIN HIS PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY ON SUBJECT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.

2. JLP ARGUED WITH EMOTION THAT "THINGS WERE NOT WELL IN MEXICO". DISPARITIES OF WEALTH AND OPPORTUNITY STILL WERE TOO GREAT. "THE MEAT I LEFT UNFINISHED TODAY ON MY PLATE WOULD BE A FEAST FOR CAMPESINO IN THIS CITY. FOR MEXICO TO HAVE TRANQUILITY IN FUTURE YEARS, THESE CONTRASTS HAD TO BE MITIGATED. IN SERIES OF RHETORICAL QUESTIONS BEGINNING "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF YOUR CHILDREN...?" JLP SAID THE GOLDEN RULE OUGHT TO GOVERN CONDUCT AMONG MEXICANS AND THE GOM'S TREATMENT OF WORKERS AND CAMPESIONS. "JESUS CHRIST, NOT KARL MARX, FIRST SAID THAT", JLP SAID, AND WENT ON TO DENY THAT HE ADVOCATED A SOCIALIST STATE.

3. BUT JLP ALSO MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT MEXICAN CONSTITUTION EMBURED THE STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA. FULFILLMENT OF THE STILL UNREALIZED MEXICAN REVOLUTION WOULD MEAN AN EVER GREATER ROLE OF STATE IN NATIONAL LIFE. ANTICIPATING THE REACTION THAT INCREASED CORRUPTION WOULD BE THE RESULT, JLP PERHAPS DISINGENUOUSLY SAID "WE ARE ALL THE STATE AND IF THE STATE IS CORRUPT AND INEFFICIENT, THAN SO ARE WE ALL".
JLP
THOUGHT THAT THE SOLUTION TO CORRUPTION LAY WITH THE INDIVIDUAL MEXICAN.

4. COMMENT: IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS ONE OF MEXICO'S PRIVILEGED, JLP DID NOT SOUND AS PIOUS OR AS EXHORTATORY AS ECHEVERRIA HAS. LIKEWISE HE DID NOT FAULT THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE PROBLEMS HE DESCRIBED, BUT SIMPLY STRESSED THE MORAL AND POLITICAL EXIGENCIES TO CORRECT THEM. COMMENTATORS ALREADY HAVE LABELED THE JLP SPEECH A MAJOR ONE AND EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS IS SURE TO FOLLOW. INITIAL REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED. ESTABLISHMENT LEFTISTS APPEAR TO BE REASSURED THAT JLP'S SYMPATHY TOWARDS THE PRIVATE SECTOR DOES NOT MEAN AN ABANDONMENT OF ECHEVERRIA'S POLICIES TO BETTER THE SITUATION OF RURAL AND OTHER MARGINAL GROUPS. BUT OTHERS FOUND THE INVOCATION OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS DISTURBING. ANTI-CHURCH SENTIMENT STILL RUNS DEEP IN MEXICO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 11349 240039Z

AND MEXICAN POLITICAINS, EVEN FUTURE PRESIDENTS, HAVE TO WALK A TIGHTROPE IN COUNTRY THAT IS AT ONCE BOTH CATHOLIC AND ANTI-CLERICAL.
JOVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, SPEECHES, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO11349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750446-0450
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751215/aaaaandd.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO A-448
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JLP ON SOCIAL JUSTICE: NOT MARX BUT JESUS
TAGS: PINT, MX, (LOPEZ PORTILLO, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006